

In The Claims:

1. A gang-type rotary lawn mower comprising:
- a frame supported by front wheels and at least one rear wheel for movement over the ground;
- 5 a power source which is mounted on said frame and which drives at least two of said wheels;
- an operator's seat mounted on said frame;
- a steering system enabling the operator to steer said lawn mower;
- at least two side-by-side front rotary cutting deck assemblies mounted
- 10 on said frame in front of said front wheels, said front deck assemblies defining a gap between adjacent front deck assemblies; and
- at least one rear rotary cutting deck assembly mounted on said frame behind said front deck assemblies and between said front wheels, each rear deck assembly being aligned with a respective gap between adjacent front
- 15 deck assemblies;
- each of said front and rear deck assemblies including a deck defining a downwardly opening space, at least one cutting blade mounted on a spindle for rotation therewith and a first roller supporting said deck for movement over the ground, said first roller extending only partially across the width of said
- 20 deck.
2. The lawn mower of Claim 1 wherein each of said front and rear deck assemblies further includes a second roller positioned in offset relation to said first roller.

3. The lawn mower of Claim 2 wherein each of said front and rear deck assemblies further includes a third roller having an axis of rotation aligned with an axis of rotation of said second roller.

4. The lawn mower of Claim 3 wherein each of said first, second and third rollers define a rolling path substantially uninterrupted across the width of the deck.

5. The lawn mower of Claim 4 wherein said rolling path includes a portion traveled by both of said first and second rollers.

6. The lawn mower of Claim 1 wherein each of said front and rear deck assemblies includes a second roller aligned with said first roller and spaced apart therefrom, said first and second rollers positioned on opposite sides of a respective wheel such that a rolling path is defined by said first
5 roller, said second roller and said respective wheel.

7. The lawn mower of Claim 6 wherein said rolling path extends substantially across the deck width.

8. The lawn mower of Claim 1 wherein said first roller of said at least one front deck assembly defines a rolling path and said first roller of said corresponding at least one rear deck assembly defines a rolling path.

9. The lawn mower of Claim 8 wherein said rolling path defined by said front deck assembly roller overlaps said rolling path defined by said rear deck assembly roller.

10. The lawn mower of Claim 8 wherein said rolling path defined by said front deck assembly roller includes an inboard edge aligned with an outboard edge of said rolling path defined by said rear deck assembly roller.

11. The lawn mower of Claim 8 wherein said rolling path defined by said front deck assembly roller is spaced apart from said rolling path defined by said rear deck assembly roller.

12. The lawn mower of Claim 1 wherein each of said front and rear deck assemblies further includes a pair of rotatable wheels pivotally mounted to said frame.

13. The lawn mower of Claim 12 wherein said rotatable wheels are mounted on a caster shaft. ✓

14. The lawn mower of Claim 1 further including a lifting arm pivotally interconnecting each of said front deck assemblies to said frame, said lifting arm pivoting about an axis laterally extending across said deck assembly substantially parallel to the ground and perpendicular to the direction of travel.

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19. A cutting deck assembly for a gang-type rotary lawn mower having a frame, the cutting deck assembly comprising:

a deck defining a downwardly opening space;

at least one cutting blade mounted on a spindle for rotation therewith;

5 a pair of laterally-spaced, generally vertically extending side plates having forward ends;

a first front wheel supporting one of said side plates for movement over the ground;

10 a second front wheel supporting the other of said side plates for movement over the ground;

a roller extending between said side plates supporting said side plates for movement over the ground, wherein said deck is coupled to said side plates and located in front of said roller such that the height of said deck relative to the ground is adjustable by changing the position of said deck
15 relative to said side plates; and

a lifting arm adapted to pivotally interconnect said cutting deck assembly and the frame.

20. The lawn mower of Claim 19 wherein said roller is a unitary, one-piece roller.

21. The lawn mower of Claim 19 wherein said roller is a segmented roller having a plurality of roller segments.

22. The lawn mower of Claim 21 wherein said roller segments are

23. The lawn mower of Claim 21 wherein each of said roller

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24. A gang-type rotary lawn mower comprising:

a frame supported by front wheels and at least one rear wheel for movement over the ground;

a power source which is mounted on said frame and which drives at

5 least two of said wheels;

an operator's seat mounted on said frame;

a steering system enabling the operator to steer said lawn mower;

at least two side-by-side front rotary cutting deck assemblies mounted on said frame in front of said front wheels, said front deck assemblies defining
10 a gap between adjacent front deck assemblies; and

at least one rear rotary cutting deck assembly mounted on said frame behind said front deck assemblies, each rear deck assembly being aligned with a respective gap between adjacent front deck assemblies;

each of said front and rear deck assemblies including a deck defining a
15 downwardly opening space, at least one cutting blade mounted on a spindle for rotation therewith and a first, second and third roller supporting said deck for movement over the ground, said first roller extending only partially across the width of said deck.

25. The lawn mower of Claim 24 wherein said first roller and said second roller are positioned in along different axes of rotation.

26. The lawn mower of Claim 25 wherein said third roller and said second roller rotate about the same axis of rotation.

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